

## **Statement on the Stearns-Markey Penalties Amendment**

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Stearn amendment, and I am pleased to join with the Gentleman from Florida in co-sponsoring this amendment.

The underlying bill allows for a fine of up to ten thousand dollars and up to 10 years in jail for willful and intentional sabotage of nuclear facilities. In the aftermath of the September 11th, and what we now know about the resources of some of the terrorist organizations that are operating out there, this sum seems far too small.

Our amendment allows for fines of up to 1 million dollars, and up to life in prison without parole. These are much more appropriate penalties for actions that could have such devastating public health, safety, and environmental consequences.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.